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Frankly, we must say that Dr. Ruemelin has not satisfactorily met this desire.

As much as this is by implication confessed when with Dr. Ruemelin's paper are combined Dr. Holls' introduction and elaborate notes, all of which have obviously been added because without them to address itself would be both incomplete and weak. Much the best material in the volume is found in the long quotations from John Stuart Mill's Essay on "Treaty Obligations." Here we feel the grip of a master mind, and know that we are being brought face to face with discriminations that go deep down into the principles of human nature and the practical conditions of existence.

In fact, it is in two famous rules laid down by Mill, that we find the most valuable suggestions ever made toward the reconciliation of public policy with the requirements of abstract morality. "Nations," he said, "should abstain from imposing conditions which, upon any just and reasonable view of human affairs, cannot be expected to be kept, and they should conclude their treaties as commercial treaties are usually concluded, only for terms of years." From these two rules a fairly complete and, we think, a sound philosophy of political morality could be developed. Morality is a quality of unconstrained conduct. It cannot be predicated of acts which are performed under duress or necessity. It is, therefore, a mere jugglery with words to talk about the morality or the immorality of wars which, in view of the struggle for existence and the imperfections of human nature, are practically inevitable. Only those acts which needlessly and wantonly provoke war can be condemned. In like manner, since growth and development from generation to generation are normal processes, it is inevitable that inconsiderate promises binding future generations shall from time to time be broken. They should never have been made; but if they have been made under compulsion, the nation that has exercised the compulsion is in no sense a mentor of righteousness, but only an ordinary fool, if it expects the promises to be fulfilled. All such promises fall within one general class of non-moral cases, namely, those in which a wrong act is so bound up with a right act that in order to do right it is necessary at the same time to do wrong. To break promises is *ipso facto* wrong, but to arrest development or curtail the liberty of others is also *ipso facto* wrong. Logically, all such cases drop out of the category of voluntary acts, and, therefore, of morality, and take their place in the category of necessity.

We could wish that Dr. Holls had included in his full and illuminating notes citations from Proal's "*La Criminalité Politique*," a translation of which appeared in this country in 1898—a thoughtful work, defending the authority of abstract moral principle.

THE CLERK'S AND CONVEYANCER'S ASSISTANT: A COLLECTION OF FORMS OF CONVEYANCING, CONTRACTS AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS. By Benj. V. Abbott and Austin Abbott. Second Edition. Revised

and enlarged by Clarence F. Birdseye, of the New York Bar. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company. 1899. pp. 1061.

Since Abbott's "*Clerk's and Conveyancer's Assistant*" was published in 1866, many of its forms have become obsolete through change of business conditions and methods, judicial decisions, or legislation. Lawyers will consequently welcome this second edition, revised and enlarged by Mr. Birdseye, who has omitted obsolete forms and those which arise under codes of procedure and which properly belong to works on pleading and practice. He has also omitted forms relating to the formation and government of corporations, which are governed by specific statutes in the various States and cannot be covered by a general book of forms; and has added forms of corporate mortgages and traffic, underwriting, reorganization and similar agreements, which are now so large a part of ordinary practice.

This book, like the other works of the late Messrs. Abbott, is not, and does not purport to be, a scientific treatise, but is an instrument or tool to aid the busy lawyer in the drawing of papers. If treated as such, and used with a knowledge of the decisions and statutes covering the particular state of facts, it will be of very great assistance. A word of caution against blindly following a form would be out of place if careless lawyers did not sometimes sacrifice the substance of the particular needs of their clients to the form in the book, by inserting in documents provisions which have nothing to do with, or are contrary to, such needs.

The publisher's work is well done, and the full index will be of great service.

A BRIEF FOR THE TRIAL OF CIVIL ISSUES BEFORE A JURY. By Austin Abbott. Second and Enlarged Edition by the Publishers' Editorial Staff. Rochester, N. Y.: The Lawyers' Co-operative Publishing Company. 1900. pp. xiii, 603.

The first edition of this useful work for the trial lawyer came out in 1885, and this second and enlarged edition will be heartily welcomed on account of the development in trial practice since then. The work does not deal with the science, but with the practical mechanics of a lawsuit. But the lawyer cannot, in justice to his client, disregard this side of the practice of his profession. Everyone who has followed the history of lawsuits knows that often, even under our modern practice, a good cause is jeopardized or lost because the right motion or objection was not made at the right time and in the right way. The original edition was chiefly for the New York lawyer, and he may at first find the greater size of the second edition inconvenient, but he will be more than compensated by the references to the decisions of other jurisdictions, which throw light on undecided, doubtful or disputed questions. Comparatively few changes have been made in the arrangement or in the text of the first edition, but other and important subjects have been added, such as the examination of witnesses, the impeachment and corroboration of witnesses, the absence of the judge and